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# Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

# Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations

## Letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request you to include a supplementary item, entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations", in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.

In accordance with rule 20 of the Rules of Procedure, an explanatory memorandum is annexed to this request.

(*Signed*) Arnoldo M. **Listre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-59283 (E) 080800 080800

## Annex to the letter dated 10 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

### Explanatory memorandum

Peacekeeping operations are one of the central activities of the United Nations and a collective responsibility of all Member States.

The methodology used to apportion the expenses of peacekeeping operations among Member States was agreed on in 1973 and has been applied continually since then.

The circumstances that existed in 1973, however, are not the same as current ones. The Organization has been called upon to face ever greater and more complex peacekeeping challenges in an international political and economic context that was undergoing profound changes.

It seems timely, therefore, to consider whether the current special scale for peacekeeping operations is sufficient to enable the Organization to meet its new responsibilities fully and to ensure that the commitment of Member States to peacekeeping is reflected in the payment of assessments that are equitable, in other words, that take into account:

(a) The special responsibility that the permanent members of the Security Council have in the maintenance of peace and security and that they are the ones, therefore, who should primarily absorb the higher costs of peacekeeping operations;

(b) The limited capacity of developing countries to contribute to peacekeeping operations and the necessity for any increases in their assessments to be gradual and separated by intervals.